

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A supply item for data bearing identification or financial document production equipment, comprising:

5 a supply cylinder having first and second ends, the first end defining an opening having a first geometry;

a take-up cylinder having first and second ends, the first end of the take-up cylinder defining an opening having a second geometry, the second geometry is different than the first geometry;

10 a web material wound onto the supply cylinder, the web material including a take-up end that is attachable to the take-up cylinder.

2. The supply item of claim 1, wherein the opening in the first end of the supply cylinder defines a first area, and the opening in the first end of the take-up cylinder defines a second area, and the second area is less than the first area.

3. The supply item of claim 1, wherein the web material comprises a print ribbon.

20 4. The supply item of claim 3, wherein the print ribbon is a multi-color print ribbon.

5. The supply item of claim 1, wherein the web material comprises one of cleaning ribbon, holographic overlay, and laminate material.

25 6. The supply item of claim 1, wherein the second end of the supply cylinder defines an opening having a third area, and the second end of the take-up cylinder defines an opening having a fourth area, and the third area is substantially equal to the fourth area.

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7. The supply item of claim 2, wherein the first end of the take-up cylinder is closed by a wall, and the second geometry is defined in the wall.

8. The supply item of claim 7, wherein the wall comprises a cap that is attached to the take-up cylinder at the first end thereof.

9. The supply item of claim 2, wherein the first end of the supply cylinder is closed by a wall, and the first geometry is defined in the wall.

10. The supply item of claim 9, wherein the wall comprises a cap that is attached to the supply cylinder at the first end thereof.

11. A carrier for a supply item used in data bearing identification or financial document production equipment, comprising:

15 a handle portion having first and second opposite end regions;
a supply spindle rotatably mounted to the handle portion at the first end region for rotation about a first rotation axis, the supply spindle having a first end adjacent the handle portion and a second end spaced from the first end;

20 a first pin projecting past the second end of the supply spindle generally parallel to the first rotation axis;

a take-up spindle rotatably mounted to the handle portion at the second end region for rotation about a second rotation axis, the take-up spindle having a first end adjacent the handle portion and a second end spaced from the first end thereof; and

25 a second pin projecting past the second end of the take-up spindle generally parallel to the second rotation axis, and, when viewed in an end plan view, the second pin has a geometry that is different than a geometry of the first pin.

12. The carrier of claim 11, wherein, when viewed in an end plan view, the second pin has a maximum dimension that is less than a maximum dimension of the first pin.

13. The carrier of claim 12, wherein, when viewed in an end plan view, the area of the second pin is less than the area of the first pin.

5 14. The carrier of claim 11, further comprising a handle connected to the handle portion intermediate the end regions, and the handle comprises an upwardly curved upper surface.

15 15. A method of facilitating loading of a supply item into data bearing identification or financial document production equipment, the method comprising:

providing a carrier including a supply spindle assembly and a take-up spindle assembly;

15 providing a supply item including a supply cylinder, a take-up cylinder, and a web material wound onto the supply cylinder and having an end thereof attached to the take-up cylinder, said supply cylinder intended to be disposed on said supply spindle assembly and said take-up cylinder intended to be disposed on said take-up spindle assembly;

20 wherein at least one of said supply cylinder and said take-up cylinder, and at least one of said supply spindle assembly and said take-up spindle assembly, are designed so that said supply cylinder or said take-up cylinder can only be disposed on said supply spindle assembly or said take-up spindle assembly respectively; and

inserting said carrier with said supply cylinder and said take-up cylinder thereon into the document production equipment.

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16. The method of claim 15, wherein said take-up cylinder is designed so that it can only be disposed on said take-up spindle assembly.

30 17. The method of claim 16, comprising providing said take-up cylinder, said take-up spindle assembly, and said supply spindle assembly with

geometries that permit said take-up cylinder to be disposed on said take-up spindle assembly and prevent said take-up cylinder from being disposed on said supply spindle assembly.

5 18. Data bearing identification or financial document production equipment comprising:

 a housing;

 a chassis disposed in the housing, said chassis having first and second side walls defining a supply item receiving area therebetween, said supply item
10 receiving area adapted to at least partially receive a carrier having a supply spindle assembly with a supply cylinder received on the supply spindle assembly and a take-up spindle assembly with a take-up cylinder received on the take-up spindle assembly, with a web material wound onto said supply cylinder and having a take-up end thereof that is attached to said take-up cylinder; and

15 said first side wall including first and second support structures for supporting ends of the supply spindle assembly and the take-up spindle assembly, respectively, said first support structure and said second support structure having different geometries to match different geometries of the supply spindle assembly and the take-up spindle assembly.

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 19. The production equipment of claim 18, wherein said first support structure and said second support structure each include a base section and a guide section that converges toward said base section.

25 20. The production equipment of claim 18, further comprising a gap defined between said second sidewall of said chassis and said housing, and said gap is sized to receive end regions on said carrier when said carrier is properly mounted on said chassis.

21. The production equipment of claim 18, wherein said housing includes a cut-out section, and said carrier includes a handle portion that is disposed in said cut-out when said carrier is properly mounted on said chassis, and a gap is defined between said handle portion and a bottom surface of said cut-out.

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22. The production equipment of claim 21, wherein said handle portion includes a handle with an upper surface that is configured to form a continuation of adjacent housing structure.